(b) if so, whether Government have issued any directive or taken any action for the proper utilization of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Funds provided to States under National Health Programmes are utilised with due care as per set procedures and for the purpose for which they are provided.

(b) and (c) To ensure proper utilization of funds, guidelines have been circulated to all States/District Disease Control Societies. Utilisation of funds is also monitored through regular reports, review meetings, both at the Centre and the States, audit reports and utilisation certificates.

Rate of blood in Delhi

†2687. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one unit of blood is being sold at a minimum of two thousand rupees in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether rate of blood differs in Government and Private Institutions;

(c) whether Government propose to bring the sale of blood under price control system; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. Blood is not sold as such, as professional blood donation has been banned.

(b) However, some expenditure is incurred by the blood banks for processing of blood, for example, towards mandatory tests for transfusion. This expenditure, estimated to be around Rs.500/- per unit of blood, is recovered from patients in the form of service charges by the blood banks. It is true that private blood banks often undertake additional tests, over and above the mandatory ones, and, as such, possibly the service charges recovered by these private blood banks varies.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal for bringing the sale of blood under a price control system.

'Health for All' Programme

2688. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of 50 years of development Government have not been able to provide health facility to all;

(b) whether Government have launched 'Health for All' Programme;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that health facilities are going out of reach of people day-by-day;

(d) whether this situation reflects the failure of Government on health front; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to give the responsibility of 'Health for All' to Private Sector and disinvest the Government hospitals like PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Health is a State subject. The main objective of the Government's Health policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. For this purpose a vast network of rural health care infrastructure has been created in the country. National Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS are also being implemented all over the country. In addition, infrastructural facilities at CHCs district hospitals etc., are also being strengthened with external assistance in some of the States for the purpose of improving the provision of health care facilities for the people in rural areas.

(e) Government has recently announced the National Health Policy — 2002. Although, the Policy welcomes the participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities with appropriate regulatory mechanism, the Government will continue to play an important role in designing national health programmes with the active participation of the State Governments. The National Health Policy — 2002 does not contain any policy prescription regarding disinvestment of Government hospitals.